

CHAPTER 157

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF LAW IN THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

SECTION 1. It shall be unlawful for any corporation or any person or association of persons, except members of the Bar of the State of North Carolina admitted and licensed to practice as attorneys at law, to appear as attorney or counsellor-at-law in any action or proceeding in any court in this State or before any judicial body or the North Carolina Industrial Commission; to maintain, conduct, or defend the same, except in his own behalf as a party thereto; or, by word, sign, letter, or advertisement, to hold out himself, or themselves, as competent or qualified to give legal advice or counsel, or to prepare legal documents, or as being engaged in advising or counselling in law or acting as attorney or counsellor-at-law, or in furnishing the services of a lawyer or lawyers; and it shall be unlawful for any person or association of persons except members of the Bar, for a fee or any consideration, to give legal advice or counsel, perform for or furnish to another legal services, or, for or without a fee or any consideration, to prepare directly or through another for another person, firm or corporation, any will or testamentary disposition, or instrument of trust serving purposes similar to those of a will, except life insurance trusts, or, for a fee or any consideration, to organize corporations or prepare for another person, firm or corporation, any other legal document.

Provided, that nothing herein shall prohibit any person from conferring with a person, firm or corporation with respect to the creation of a fiduciary relationship, or from cooperating with a licensed attorney of another in preparing any such legal document, if such attorney maintains his own place of business and is not an officer of a corporation represented by such person; or from drawing a will for another in an emergency wherein the imminence of death leaves insufficient time to have the same drawn and its execution supervised by a licensed attorney at law.

SEC. 2. It shall be unlawful for any corporation to practice or appear as an attorney for any person other than itself in any court in this State, or before any judicial body or the North Carolina Industrial Commission; or hold itself out to the public or advertise as being entitled to practice law; and no corporation shall organize corporations, or draw agreements, or other legal documents not relating to its lawful business, or draw wills, or practice law, or give legal advice

Persons other than members of the State Bar prohibited from practicing law.

Specific acts prohibited.

Life insurance trusts excepted.

Certain fiduciary relationships excepted.

Emergency wills excepted.

Practice of law by corporations also prohibited.

Exceptions.